The Astronomy Freshman Prizes for Excellence (AFPE) typically range from $2,000 to $10,000 per student and will be awarded yearly to freshmen of outstanding promise admitted to the first year of the UT Astronomy program. The AFPE awards are funded jointly by the Astronomy Department excellence funds and the National Science Foundation (NSF) STEM Undergraduate Education grant awarded to the UT "Scientists for Tomorrow" program, which helps toward the long-term success of students of high academic merit, particularly among groups that are traditionally under-represented in the sciences.

The winners will be selected from the pool of students who applied for the prize and who are admitted to UT by the Admissions Office. The winner will be notified in April. Students selected will benefit from mentoring by individual faculty members who will assist them in achieving long-term success. They will also meet regularly with other STEM award winners from across the UT College of Natural Science.

To apply, please answer the questions below and email or mail this form back by April 15, 2010 to our student coordinator at the address below. We encourage you to apply early rather than wait until April 15th. The selection committee will have access to all the materials (e.g., scores, transcripts, UT application form, etc) that you submitted to the UT Admissions office, so there is no need to resubmit these.

**Email address:**
studentinfo@astro.as.utexas.edu

**Mailing address:**
Char Burke - Student Coordinator
Department of Astronomy
The University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station C1400
Austin Texas 78712

**Physical address:**
2511 Speedway
Robert Lee Moore Hall 15.202AA

**Phone:**
Char Burke - Student Coordinator
(512) 471-3350

After we receive your application, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive the email or have any questions, please contact our student coordinator.

1. Please fill in the information below:

   **Name:**
   ________________________________

   **UT EID:**
   ________________________________

   **Email address:**
   ________________________________

   **Phone numbers:**
   ________________________________

2. Why do you wish to pursue a degree in Astronomy and why have you chosen to apply to the UT Astronomy program? (Max: 300 words)

3. Why do you think you deserve the Astronomy Freshman Prize For Excellence? Please describe relevant achievements, activities, and any special factors that you might wish us to consider. (Max: 350 words)